

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING CHARLES "RANDY" RANDAL BENJAMIN

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Charles "Randy" Randal Benjamin, who passed away on Wednesday, February 12, at the age of 70.

Randy was born on February 23, 1949, in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. He graduated from Hurricane High School in 1967 and later answered the call to serve our great nation in the United States Air Force.

In 1970, Randy married Pat Graham, and they remained together for over 49 years and had two children. He started his business, Connect Two, Inc., in 2001 in Pontotoc. Randy was an active member at First Baptist Church in Pontotoc and set an example of faith for his family to follow. He was an avid bass fisherman and a proud charter member of the Pontotoc Bass Club.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Pat Benjamin; his daughter, Tonya Shirley; his son, Chip Benjamin; his grandchildren, Lindsey Claire Shirley, Ryan Shirley, Harper Benjamin, and Tripp Benjamin, as well as many friends and extended family members.

Randy's life was one of service, grace, and love for his family and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND EFFORTS OF LT. COL. JIM CANNON

#### HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired Lieutenant Colonel Jim Cannon for his efforts in pioneering the National Workforce Awards. Located in Athens, West Virginia, this company's sole purpose is to provide national awards for employers that want to appreciate, encourage, and motivate exceptional employees. Given after fulfillment of stringent criteria, these awards include the National Economic Welfare Medal, The National Productivity Cross, The National Distinguished Service Star, and The National Order of Job Formation.

Lieutenant Colonel Cannon has truly dedicated his life to civil service. In 1965, he joined the Army and would serve for a total of 34 years as both an active duty and reserve officer. He received the Legion of Merit award in 1983 for eighteen years of exceptional meritorious conduct. After retiring from the military, he worked in the private sector as a Corporation Manager, yet he still involved himself in public affairs by becoming the Mayor of Princeton, West Virginia, in 1984 and serving until 1988.

In 1993, Lieutenant Colonel Cannon became the Vice President of Business and Finance at Concord University. This is where he came up with the idea to create a company that honors those that go above and beyond for their employers: while at work one unfortunate evening, Concord University's South Tower Residence Hall was caught ablaze by a student's candle. The Athens Fire Department quickly put out the fire, but students on two floors of the residence hall were displaced because of structural damage and fire extinguisher residue. The custodial staff at Concord worked around the clock to make the dorms habitable for the students effected, resulting in many moving back-in only after 24 hours.

Lieutenant Colonel Cannon wished he could have put a medal on each and every community member, including Concord's Staff and the firefighters, that went above the call of duty to overcome this terrible accident. This is why he started the National Workforce Awards in 2015 to honor people across our nation that have done similar acts of excellence for their employers. I commend the National Workforce Awards for encouraging higher productivity, more innovation, and a strong, complete work ethic.

May God bless Lieutenant Colonel Cannon, and may he continue his work in recognizing great Americans throughout our country.

### CONGRATULATING TRACEY CHILDRESS AS THE HOT SPRINGS ARKANSAS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

#### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Tracey Childress of Hot Springs on her recognition as the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce's 2020 Woman of the Year.

This award is given yearly by the Chamber of Commerce based on the impact that members of a community have on their fellow man. Since she moved to Arkansas in 1992, Ms. Childress has been a vital part of the Hot Springs area, specifically in her work with the Cooper Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center where she has served as Director since January 2019. She worked as a forensic interviewer for several years, often cited as one of Arkansas' leading experts on Child First Forensic Interview Protocol.

In addition to her work, she is also a respected and active member of her church, a state and national forensic interview instructor, a certified law enforcement instructor, and a beloved mentor in the local YMCA Reach and Rise Program.

Ms. Childress provides this nation with a perfect example of what service can accomplish in a community both professionally and personally. I am proud to call her a friend and

a fellow Fourth District citizen. I take this time to congratulate her on her success as Woman of the Year and thank her for her continued service to the young people around us.

### IN HONOR OF DR. MANUEL "MANNY" LOPEZ

#### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable life of Dr. Manuel "Manny" Lopez and his over 50 years of public service to the City of Oxnard. During his time as a dedicated public servant and throughout his career, Manny exhibited outstanding leadership, innovative community interaction, and distinguished professionalism, and he paved the way for future leaders to continue his unparalleled legacy of service to the community.

Manny was born in Oxnard, California on June 1, 1927 to immigrant parents who fled the Mexican Revolution. A son of farmworkers, Manny would graduate from Oxnard High School and Ventura College before finishing his undergrad at San Diego State University. It was shortly after that he attended the University of California Berkeley School of Optometry. In 1962, Manny opened the first bilingual optometry practice in the community and served patients for over 50 years until his retirement in 2016.

In 1978, Manny became the first Latino to be elected to the Oxnard City Council. He served as a member of the Oxnard City Council until 1992, when he became the first elected Latino Mayor of Oxnard. He served as Mayor until 2004. After serving as the Mayor of Oxnard for over a decade, Manny took a four-year break from public service. Manny returned to local government in 2008 when he was elected as the Commissioner to the Port of Hueneme five-member Board of Harbor Commissioners. He served as a Harbor Commissioner until his passing in 2020.

Manny devoted his time to giving back to the community and served on many local boards including the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Board, Oxnard Community Relations Commission, City of Oxnard Redevelopment Agency, Oxnard College Foundation, Oxnard Planning Commission, Tri-County Optometric Association, and the Boys and Girls Club of Oxnard. He dedicated his life to helping those around him and was a founding member of several service-oriented and philanthropic groups including the CSUCI Foundation, Sister City Oxnard-Ocotlán, Ventura County Community Foundation's Destino Fund, and the Ventura County Community Foundation Women's Legacy Fund.

Throughout his life, Manny embodied the spirit of giving back, and his more than five decades in public service is evidence of his passion for making Oxnard a thriving community for everyone.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I personally knew Manny to be a kind soul, who was a loving father, wonderful husband, and respected leader throughout our community. I will especially remember Manny for his big heart and thoughtfulness. He often provided me with words of advice and wisdom that continue to guide my work in public service.

For these reasons, it is with great honor that I offer Dr. Manuel "Manny" Lopez my heartfelt appreciation for his years of outstanding service to the City of Oxnard and unwavering dedication to our community during his exemplary career. On behalf of the people of Oxnard and a very grateful community, whom he served with distinction, I express my sincere condolences to his family and friends, and to all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the founding of Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T). Missouri S&T was originally established in 1870 as the University of Missouri School of Miners and Metallurgy, and it was the first technical institute west of the Mississippi River. In the last 150 years, Missouri S&T has grown into a world-class engineering school. While its name has changed over time, its focus has remained the same: to prepare the best young minds in Missouri and around the world to tackle the challenging technical demands of the modern era.

Missouri S&T students achieve a level of success that is unmatched, in large part because of campus programs that emphasize practical experience. This enables S&T graduates to combine their studies with real-world practice and execution and prepare for the workforce. For instance, students can compete on one of 18 competitive "design teams" to build optimized models of systems such as a Baja off-roader or an underwater robot. The skills learned in these applied programs benefit S&T students after graduation, and 92 percent of recent graduates find employment or gain admission to additional schooling within 6 months of graduation.

Being a student at Missouri S&T is both work and play. One fun tradition at S&T is to put on two full weeks of celebrations for St. Patrick's Day—St. Patrick being the patron saint of engineers. This tradition has been going on for 112 years, and preparation for the two weeks of celebration takes place all year, during which Miners count down to the next "Greatest St. Pats Ever." A wagon with St. Pat aboard leads the annual parade through Rolla with families and alumni lining the street to greet the figure. After the two-hour parade, festivities kick off with concerts and food vendors, and they go through the night.

I'm proud to represent Missouri S&T and honored to commemorate the 150th anniversary of its founding. Miners makes our community better, and after graduation, they work

in the defense, engineering, technology, and other sectors to make our workforce and country better. For Missouri S&T, the past 150 years have been bright, and I hope the next 150 years will be even brighter.

GEORGE JENKINS HIGH SCHOOL  
CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ROSS SPANO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the George Jenkins High School Cheerleading team for their championship performance at the state competition in Gainesville, Florida.

George Jenkins High School cheerleaders won their first state title while competing in the Medium Non-Tumbling Division and beating second place by 4.6 points.

Not only was this the first state title for the school in cheerleading, but just the fourth time George Jenkins High School has captured a title in any sport.

Prior to this, the Jenkins squad had never made it to the finals. However, their strong preparation, passion, and unwavering commitment to one another were instrumental in their victory.

The Jenkins cheerleading squad was led by their head coach Nashan Davis, who, after winning the title, held back tears in stating, "The coaches gave them the tools and they went out there and did their job today."

Congratulations once again to the George Jenkins Cheerleading team and on their title. They earned it and deserved it, and I look forward to seeing them defend it next year.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIANE  
ALBERIGI, UNICAN OF THE YEAR  
FOR SCRANTON CHAPTER OF  
UNICO NATIONAL

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Diane Alberigi, who will be named UNICAN of the Year for 2019. Diane will be honored at the annual UNICO Charity Ball, held on February 29, 2020, at Fiorelli's Manor in Peckville, Pennsylvania.

Diane is the daughter of Francis Tougher and Grace Reidenbach. She grew up in the Hill Section neighborhood of Scranton along with her sister, Francie. After graduating from Technical High School, Diane was employed by the Chamberlain Insurance Agency for 35 years. Since 2007, Diane has worked at NEPA Center for Independent Living, where she earned a certification in payroll operations and oversees the disbursement of checks to employees in 10 states.

Diane has lived in Clarks Summit since 1984. She is committed to her church and community, having served as a lector at both St. Peter's Cathedral and Our Lady of Snows. Diane volunteered for and chaired the Our Lady of Snows picnic for a decade. In between time, she also worked at the Glint of

Gold Jewelry Store on South Washington Avenue in Scranton.

Since joining UNICO in 2004 under the sponsorship of Chris DiMattio, Diane has been invaluable in the Scranton Chapter's activities. She served as treasurer of the Chapter's Ladies Auxiliary and co-chair of the cappuccino stand at La Festa Italiana, and she currently sits on the board of La Festa as well as the board of the Scranton Chapter. She was named a Northeast Woman by the Scranton Times-Tribune in June 2018.

Diane is also passionate about helping rescue animals and has four dogs, including a blind, special-needs dog. She has seven nieces and nephews, one great niece, and one great nephew.

It is an honor to recognize Diane as the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National's UNICAN of the Year for 2019. May she continue to honorably represent and serve the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania for many years to come.

TRAVIS AGUIRRE RECEIVES THE  
YOUNG ALUMNI HALL OF FAME  
AWARD

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Travis Aguirre, who received the Young Alumni Hall of Fame Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation on February 22, 2020.

Captain Travis Aguirre's commitment to public service came from a passion of wanting to make an impact and difference in his career field. After receiving his Associate's in Fire Science from Victor Valley College, Travis transitioned from student to teacher and taught at the Fire Academy and within the EMT Program at the college. Beginning his fire career with City of Victorville Fire Department, he has progressed from Engineer to Captain with the San Bernardino County Fire Department. He consistently stays involved in his community, by mentoring local youth, serving in the San Bernardino County Fire Department Honor Guard, and serving as the Vice President of IAFF Local 935.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I congratulate Captain Travis Aguirre on this award, and thank him for his dedication and service to the residents of San Bernardino County. Captain Aguirre is a true mode of the professionalism and service of the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

HONORING FRANK PAREDES ON  
HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Paredes on his 100th birthday. Mr. Paredes is an upstanding World War II veteran and Pearl Harbor Survivor who I am proud to represent in Washington.

Mr. Paredes was born on February 15, 1920 in Douglas, Arizona and enlisted in the Army

on May 5, 1941. After basic training, he was sent to Pearl Harbor, where he was on the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941. Mr. Paredes was heading to mass when the attack began and ran to the first anti-aircraft gun he could find and manned it until the attack was over, managing to shoot down at least one plane.

Mr. Paredes was then sent to Australia where he volunteered to be the nose gunner on a B25 that was shot down at sea near Port Moresby. Once rescued, he was sent to Cairns, Australia and later to Owens Stanley Range, New Guinea, where he participated in the Kokoda Track Campaign and Battle of Buna-Gona with the 7th Division, 32 Infantry. Later, Mr. Paredes joined the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade from September to October 1943, where he was wounded transporting troops to and from Scarlett Beach.

After being attached to the Navy and stationed near Vella Lavella Island in 1943, Mr. Paredes participated in the Battle of Tarawa, and given a cyanide pill to be taken if captured. He was later sent to his final combat station in the Philippines and discharged in September 1945.

In 1959, Mr. Paredes married his wife Artemisa and had four kids, eventually settling down in Atwater in the 1970s, working for many years as a bricklayer. Though his wife passed away in 2007, Mr. Paredes remains proud of the family he started with her and now has many grandchildren, great, and great-great grandchildren.

Since retiring from the bricklayers' union in the 1980s, Mr. Paredes has remained civically engaged. He is a member of Merced Elks Lodge No. 1240 and a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he still serves as the bugler in the honor guard.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the exceptional life of Frank Paredes on his 100th birthday. I wish him and his family the best as they celebrate 100 years of a gentleman that has made a difference and truly exemplifies the values of duty, honor, and country.

#### HONORING THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT AND THE LEG- ACY OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY ON HER 200TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the passage of the 19th Amendment and the legacy of Susan B. Anthony on her 200th birthday.

Susan B. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts. At the age of six, she moved with her family to Battenville, New York in Washington County. Her family were devout Quakers committed to social equality and the anti-slavery movement. She educated herself on reform issues, reading the early work of her future partner, Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Their partnership began shortly after they first met in person in 1851. In 1852 they founded the New York Women's State Temperance Society. Throughout the rest of her life, Susan B. Anthony worked tirelessly for the

equality of woman and African Americans. During her lifetime, women achieved suffrage in Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Idaho. Legal rights and employment opportunities had been greatly expanded in most states. In addition, colleges and universities began allowing women to enroll and by the time of her death, more than 36,000 women were attending schools throughout the U.S.

Susan B. Anthony passed away in 1906 in her home in Rochester, saying of national suffrage that "Failure is impossible." The 19th Amendment was ratified just 14 years later, in 1920. I was proud to honor her work by leading the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act through its passage in the House of Representatives. This bill was signed into law by President Trump on November 25, 2019.

The work of Susan B. Anthony was crucial to the eventual passage of the 19th Amendment and her legacy is as strong as ever. As commemorations go on across the country, I am proud to honor her 200th birthday on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District.

#### LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP

##### HON. ROSS SPANO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lakeland High School cheerleading team on their championship performance at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

These students won the Extra Large Non-Tumbling Division title at the FHSAA 2A state meet despite losing one of their key members to injury just prior to the finals.

Just as spectacular, the Dreadnaughts repeated as state champions having won in the Large Non-Tumbling Division last year.

Lakeland High School was led to victory by head coach Crystal Abdon who praised her team's grit and perseverance.

Competitive cheerleading has grown as a sport and Lakeland High continues to prove themselves as not only one of the best in our state, but also one of the top programs in the nation and world.

Again, congratulations to the Lakeland High School cheerleading team and staff for this victory. Their commitment to one another and joy for their sport is admirable, and I, along with all of Lake County, are so proud of them all.

#### RECOGNIZING DOROTHY STEIN

##### HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a dear friend and mentor, Dorothy Stein, who will celebrate her 102nd birthday this year.

Dorothy was born in 1918 in Owosso, Michigan to Justina (Byrnes) and Matthew Shea. While she was still young, the family moved to Flint, Michigan, and Dorothy stayed there until

she was married. She was eventually hired by the Flint Journal covering 'society news' and cherished the time she spent reporting there.

She met her husband, Donald (Don) J. Stein, through friends. They married during the war but before he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. The war ended just as he completed his training.

The couple moved to Detroit and had four children, then eleven grandchildren, then twenty great grandchildren. She was involved with several charities, including Christ Child Society. She and Don were also very involved in the Academy of the Sacred Heart where their three daughters attended school. They joined Otsego Ski Club and enjoyed spending time there for many years.

Dorothy played bridge several days a week and became extremely skilled. She has been a member of the Village Club for decades which was the site of much of her bridge playing. She still plays occasionally to this day. She drove until she was 98 years old, and she continues to bless all with her warm heart and beautiful wardrobe. Our community is a better place because of Dorothy Stein.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOHN T. MURPHY

##### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John "Jack" T. Murphy of Youngstown, Ohio, who passed away peacefully on February 20, 2020.

John was born on December 17, 1931 in Youngstown as the son of Irish immigrants, Bridget Durkin Murphy and Michael Murphy. He married Joanne Mondora on September 13, 1958, who passed away on May 18, 2012. Together, John and Joanne raised seven children and taught them all, by their own example, how to cherish their family, their heritage, their faith and their hometown.

John graduated from South High School in Youngstown in 1950. Upon his graduation from high school, he joined the U.S. Air Force and proudly served his country in the Korean War. After his military service, John performed in plays at the Youngstown Playhouse and then headed "out west" to pursue an acting career. He was cast in numerous roles in many performances in North Dakota, but he ultimately chose to return to his family and his beloved Youngstown.

Upon his return, John earned his bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University, and subsequently earned his master's degree from the University of Akron. John spent his professional career working for the Youngstown City Schools as an Art teacher, Principal and as a Truant Officer, retiring in 1993. Also, during his professional life, he was a Mill Creek Park policeman and proudly served as the 7th Ward Councilman in the City of Youngstown from 1976 to 1981. He also served as a board member on the Mahoning County Children Services Board.

As a proud veteran, John was a member of the American Legion for over fifty years. John had immense pride in both his Irish and Catholic heritage. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. Dominic's Catholic Church and regularly attended mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

John's hobbies included fly fishing, wood carving, drawing and watching plays and movies. In addition, after sending all seven of his children to Cardinal Mooney High School, he became an unwavering fan. John also took great pride in the fact that his seven children all graduated from Youngstown State University and would always support its sporting events, even attending several of the National Championship games. His love of Notre Dame football was unmatched. Every Saturday during every Fall, John would be glued to the television watching his beloved team and made sure to never miss a game. He also traveled to South Bend whenever he had the opportunity. If he happened to be at an event during game time, John could be found with his earphones listening to the game and ready to share the status of the game and the score.

Above all else, though, the most important thing to John was his family. He was at his happiest when he was attending his grandchildren's sporting events and activities. He was so proud of all of his children and grandchildren, and he found absolute joy in every moment spent with them. John especially loved to spend every New Year's Eve with his family, when he would "drop" his silver disco ball for them as they all counted down the last ten seconds to every new year.

John leaves to cherish his memory, his sister, Marie Murphy; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Adele and George Eonomus; children, Bridget (Chris) Weber, Joanie Murphy, John (Linda) Murphy, Jenn (Mike) Ritter, Mollie Kay, Liz (Dave) Phillips and Dan (Leslie) Murphy; grandchildren, Jackie, Joe and Jake Weber, John Murphy, Linnie, Anthony and Daniel Ritter, Pat, Carolyn and Matthew Kay, Michael, Mark and Jack Phillips and Luke, Janine and Cara Murphy; his nephew, Dennis Gruber, who was like a brother to him and numerous other nieces and nephews, known to them as "Uncle Jack."

John was preceded in death by his parents; his siblings, Kate Murphy, Jim Murphy, Elizabeth Murphy, Hannah Murphy, Peg Tabor, Rita Crawford, Betty Murphy, Daniel Murphy and Theresa Bartelmay and his beloved wife, Joanne.

Mr. Murphy was a long-time Democratic activist, and supporter of mine. He was a great public servant and advocate for the Mahoning Valley. My deepest condolences go out to the family and to all whose lives were touched by John.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. JAMES ARRIGO

#### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Mr. James Arrigo as he celebrates his 96th birthday. Throughout his life, Mr. Arrigo has demonstrated exemplary patriotism through his service in World War II, and longstanding devotion to his family.

After graduating from North High School in 1942, Mr. Arrigo enlisted in the United States Air Force, proudly serving his country in World War II. During the war, he was stationed in Japan, working as a bombardier with the 20th

Air Force 313th Wing. In December of 1945, Mr. Arrigo was discharged as a 1st Lieutenant, after flying 35 missions over Japan.

Following completion of his military service, Mr. Arrigo returned home to Central New York and on April 7, 1947 married Mary Ann Cali. Together they lived in North Syracuse and raised two children. After many years working as a self-employed barber at Jimmy's Barber-shop, Mr. Arrigo retired at the age of 82. In addition to working as a barber, Mr. Arrigo served as a Town of Clay councilman from 1966 to 1970 and served as an active member of the Town of Clay Men of Rotary.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the life and service of Mr. James Arrigo. Mr. Arrigo's life has been one marked by admirable devotion to his family and country.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JON MYERS

#### HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jon Myers for his dedicated service to Whitley County, Indiana. Hoosiers in my hometown of Columbia City and throughout Whitley County owe a great debt of gratitude to Jon for ushering our region into a more prosperous future, and we wish him the very best as he retires from his post as president of Whitley County Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Under Jon's leadership, the Whitley County EDC has flourished. As of 2019, Whitley County has higher homeownership, a higher workforce participation rate, more people with health insurance, and fewer residents in poverty than compared to the national average. The opportunity and prosperity Whitley County enjoy today is due in no small part to Jon's leadership.

Jon's career is distinguished, defined by his active role in the broader northeast Indiana community. Prior to serving on Mitch Daniels' campaign for governor in 2004, Myers helped establish the law firm of Myers and Hockemeyer and held a senior role with Lincoln Life. In 2005, Jon became manager of the Indiana EDC office in Fort Wayne, where, in the years thereafter, determined to address problems facing Whitley County.

He has worked tirelessly to ensure those living in the region have good jobs, can support their families and have the best quality of life. Although he will no longer lead the Whitley County EDC, his legacy will endure, and his commitment to the community and state will serve as a proud example for others in the years to come.

#### CONGRATULATING THOMAS MICHAEL SEILER

#### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hollidaysburg native

Thomas Michael Seiler as he retires from the Altoona Mobile Emergency Department (AMED) after many years of service as an EMT.

Throughout Mr. Seiler's career, he has touched the lives of many families in our community and has saved countless lives. In recognition of this service, he was recognized as the "AMED EMT of the Year" in 2013 and has been lauded multiple times for his "out of hospital cardiac arrest saves."

In 1976, Mr. Seiler began his public service as a volunteer firefighter and rescue captain for the Phoenix Volunteer Fire Department in Hollidaysburg. He first obtained his EMT certification in 1980. Before joining AMED in 2004, Mr. Seiler worked as an EMT at Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Service. In addition to his work as a first responder, he also served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1974 to 1981.

As he and his family begin a new chapter, I congratulate Mr. Seiler on his achievements and thank him for his tireless devotion to the citizens of Blair County and our nation.

#### LARRY BIRD RECEIVES THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE COMMUNITY AWARD

#### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry Bird, the Mayor of Hesperia, CA, on being selected as the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Service Community Award by the Victor Valley College Foundation.

A third-generation resident, Larry Bird was born and raised in the High Desert, where he currently serves as Mayor of the City of Hesperia. While elected office is a recent development for Larry, he has spent his entire career working for Hesperia Unified School District. After teaching for several years, he was promoted to work in school administration. Today, he serves as the Principal of Sultana High School in Hesperia. In 2016, he sought election to the Hesperia City Council, and ended up winning with the greatest number of votes ever achieved by a council candidate.

I am confident that Larry will continue to be an example and role-model to both his students and the residents of Hesperia. His dedication to his students, the citizens of Hesperia, and our High Desert community is constantly on display, and he is undoubtedly deserving of this award. Congratulations, Larry.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GIRLS INC.

#### HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the non-profit organization Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis, also known as Girls Inc. Indy. Stemming from the national program

Girls Inc., Girls Inc. Indy opened its doors in 1969. It has since established programs in sixty-one different schools in the Indianapolis area with a mission to empower all young women to be strong, smart, and bold. The people of the Fifth Congressional District of Indiana are grateful for Girls Inc. Indy, and it is my pleasure to congratulate the organization in celebration of this special occasion.

In 1864, the national organization Girls Inc. was created in Waterbury, Connecticut to aid girls and young women in their navigation of society after the Civil War. The new organization dedicated itself to creating a safe environment for young women to further their self-confidence, independence, and education. Over time, Girls Inc. adapted its programs to fit society's changing social climate while maintaining its original values. In 1969, Girls Inc. reached Indianapolis. The Girls Inc. Indy branch was established, rooted in the fundamental values of the national organization but designed programs specific to young women in the Indianapolis area. Historically girls in our country have been excluded from opportunities due to gender, race, or socio-economic status. Recognizing the detrimental effects that this has on girls' self-confidence and mental health, Girls Inc. Indy fights to provide young women with a safe place to grow in their own capacities and be themselves.

This nonprofit organization is staffed by developmental professionals as well as trained volunteers, all of whom serve as mentors for girls in the program. Staff members are dedicated to providing girls with an emotionally stable environment in which they foster educational, professional, and personal growth. To embolden girls in their education and career fields, Girls Inc. Indy holds a variety of science and STEM initiatives, such as its Eureka! 5-year science program for middle school girls and its Girls Inc. Day for the inner scientist in girls of all ages. In preparing girls for their future endeavors, Girls Inc. Indy encourages their members to cultivate leadership skills and a streak of independence. It has adopted programs such as its Young Women in Leadership classes and its economic literacy classes for high school girls. However, because Girls Inc. Indy recognizes the irreplaceable value of high self-esteem, the organization has created numerous initiatives that focus on personal growth. Programs that discuss the definition of beauty and the importance of conflict management and empower young women as they embark on their journeys of self-discovery. Girls Inc. Indy has served a wide variety of young women around Indianapolis, welcoming all girls despite age, race, ethnicity, and socio-economic background.

The impact of this organization on our girls is immeasurable. In 2017 alone, Girls Inc. Indy served 4,299 girls in its programs, reaching across four different counties in the Indianapolis area. Many of these girls participated in more than one program, totaling 8,106 program enrollments.

For fifty years, Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis has aided the young women of the Indianapolis area in their development, facilitating a healthy environment to allow girls to explore their personalities, their communities, and their future careers. The challenges that young women face are constantly evolving, but I am confident that Girls Inc. Indy will continue to serve a pivotal role in their development for another fifty years and more.

Annually, Girls Inc. Indy recognizes female leaders with the Touchstone Award to those who have made astounding contributions to the Indianapolis community, and have inspired all girls to be strong, smart, and bold, enabling them to be confident in their abilities, proud of who they are, and ready to take their place in the world. It was my distinct honor to receive this prestigious award in 2008.

On this 50th Anniversary, I commend Girls Inc. Indy on its mission to embolden girls and its success in its programs. I wish the organization, its staff, volunteers and the girls it serves all the best in its future endeavors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THE LINCOLN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS HEALTH CEN- TER

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand opening of the Lincoln Park Public Schools Health Center. The new facility will increase access to healthcare services, improving the health and wellness of many students in our community. This endeavor is worthy of commendation.

Last summer, Lincoln Park Public Schools and Henry Ford Health System's Department of Pediatrics announced a partnership that would facilitate the creation of a school health and wellness center at Lincoln Park High School. Months later, we celebrate as that vision finally comes to fruition and the Lincoln Park Public School Health Center opens its doors to the community today. The new health and wellness center will provide basic primary care and behavioral health services to patients between the ages of 4 and 21 and special education students up to age 26.

The opening of the Lincoln Park Public Schools Health Center exemplifies our community's commitment to meeting the increasingly complex health care concerns of students across Michigan. The services it will offer like nursing care for common illnesses and injuries, mental health evaluations, and risk reduction counseling will help eliminate the barriers that have traditionally prevented students in the community from seeking the health care services they require. The health and wellness center will be a critical resource for many and help improve the lives and overall health of students in the downriver community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the grand opening of the Lincoln Park Public Schools Health Center. The opening of the new facility will enable our community to better meet the needs of our students, making it easier for them to access the vital healthcare and wellness services they need. I am grateful for this partnership between Henry Ford Health System and Lincoln Park Public Schools and the tremendous impact it will have on the students of our community.

RECOGNIZING NAOMI REEM

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Naomi Reem, an extraordinary woman and a leader in the Washington, D.C. Jewish community, who has, for 15 years, served as Head of School for the only Jewish day school in the District, the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital.

The Jewish community of Washington, D.C. is one of the fastest growing and largest in the nation. Indeed, according to a February 2018 article in The Washington Post, the D.C.-metro area is now home to the third largest population of Jewish people in the country after New York and Los Angeles. As we all know, a critical part of building strong community is access to good education, and Ms. Reem has made it her personal mission over the past decade and a half to ensure that a vibrant Jewish education is available to families in and around the city.

Founded in 1988, Milton, formerly known as JPDS-NC, has had just two heads of school in its 31-year history. Under Ms. Reem's leadership, the school received its first independent school accreditation; grew from under 200 to over 450 students; opened a second, early childhood education campus in the District; and launched the first Jewish middle school program in D.C. in over 40 years.

Ms. Reem is an expert educator with a teaching degree from the Agnon Institute in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a bachelor's degree from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and a master's degree in Jewish Education from Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts. She has led Milton to adopt numerous curricular initiatives in General Studies and Hebrew and Judaic Studies, which have earned the school a solid reputation, locally and nationally, as a forward-looking institution, excellent in all academic areas. Milton's reputation has attracted major philanthropic support, totaling well over \$55 million since Ms. Reem joined the school.

Prior to coming to Milton, Ms. Reem was Head of School at Sinai Academy of the Berkshires, a day school in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, for seven years. Previously, she worked at the Gordon Day School in Miami, Florida and in several educational settings in Argentina, Israel and the United States.

Ms. Reem has served on the Board of the Association of Independent Maryland and D.C. Schools, where she previously chaired two accreditation teams for other independent schools. She has also served as a mentor at the Day School Leadership Training Institute, a program sponsored by the AVICHA Foundation and the Jewish Theological Seminary to train new and aspiring heads of schools. Additionally, Ms. Reem is a member of the Executives Council for the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and served as its co-chair for three years.

Ms. Reem is a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and left her hometown in Argentina when she was 22 years old. She became a citizen of the United States on February 2, 2017.

Ms. Reem's long career in education—from her early years teaching through her tenure at

the helm of one of the most successful Jewish day schools in the country—illustrates how much can be achieved when one is dedicated to a cause and a community.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Naomi Reem for her work and service and in wishing her and her school continued success.

RECOGNIZING PETTY OFFICER  
KWAME KUSI-APPIAH AS THE  
2020 MARGARET FLOWERS  
AWARD RECIPIENT

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Petty Officer Kwame Kusi-Appiah as the 2020 Margaret Flowers Award recipient. This award goes to military members who have served their communities, apart from their active duty capacity. Petty Officer Kusi-Appiah is a member of the United States Navy, as well as an upstanding citizen of Florida's First Congressional District.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the bravest individuals in our nation. Our district has been gifted with a population that is deeply rooted in military service. Petty Officer Kusi-Appiah has shown his willingness to serve our nation through his service with the Navy, being the Leading Petty Officer for the Blue Angels' Supply Department, as well as his willing to serve the community around him.

Petty Officer Kusi-Appiah was the Detachment Leading Petty Officer for the 2019 Winter Training Detachment, and supported 32 different sites during the year. Even though he was on the road for much of the year, he devoted 525 hours to the local Big Brothers program, the United Service Organization, and local elementary Schools. He has also been the mentor to a local second grade student. In addition to volunteering, Petty Officer Kusi-Appiah is the command organizing and certifying official for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, coordinating over 3,000 hours of service to the community and producing 7 awards.

For all of his admirable contributions to our community, I am truly proud to have Petty Officer Kusi-Appiah as a constituent of Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Petty Officer Kwame Kusi-Appiah for his many accomplishments, and his commitment to altruism and excellence in our district. I thank him for all of his service and wish him all the best for his continued success.

RECOGNITION OF CHILDREN'S  
DENTAL MONTH

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, February has been dedicated as the National Children's

Dental Health Month. This is such an important cause and I am pleased to help bring awareness to the value of good oral health in children. Tooth decay is the number one chronic infectious disease among children in the U.S. The impact of not treating decay can lead to other harmful outcomes beyond just oral health. As co-chair of the Congressional Oral Health Caucus, I am pleased to support National Children's Dental Health Month and any activities taking place throughout the month of February.

Give Kids A Smile, which is sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA) is at the center of National Children's Dental Health Month. Give Kids A Smile day is an important event for all children and dentists throughout the country. Because of this program, the ADA is able to provide assistance to more than 6,500 dentists and 25,000 dental team members, and other volunteers who proudly give their time and effort to make a difference in the health of children. Since this program has started, volunteers have graciously provided services to over 6 million kids across the country, and to all 50 states and the District of Columbia as well. They have truly made a huge impact in their communities and improved the oral health of so many children.

Throughout National Children's Dental Health Month, dentists and dental team members across the country will be providing oral health services for children in need, and this will continue throughout the year. These services will include oral health education, screenings, preventive care and restorative services. Some will provide this in their own dental practice, others will go right into schools and the community to reach the kids that need it most. There are also many major events at dental hygiene schools where hundreds of kids may receive oral health services. Continued public awareness on this issue is so critical. On behalf of the Congressional Oral Health Caucus, I would once again like to state our full endorsement for the month, and push for continued care for good oral health of children.

REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL  
GOLD MEDAL TO HUMANITARIAN  
AND SPORTING  
LEGEND MUHAMMAD ALI

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to our nation. I believe it is long past time to recognize an American civil rights activist and sporting legend with Congress' highest honor. Unfortunately, Congress failed to act before The Champ's death in 2016, at the age 74, so I ask my colleagues to join me now in honoring an American hero. Over the course of his illustrious career, Muhammad Ali produced some of our nation's most lasting sports memories. From winning a Gold Medal at the 1960 summer Olympics, to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer Olympics, his influence as

an athlete and a humanitarian spanned over fifty years.

Despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the 1980s, Ali devoted his life to charitable organizations. Ali, and his wife Lonnie, were founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and Movement Disorders Clinic in Phoenix, AZ and helped raise over \$50 million for Parkinson's research. In addition to helping families cope with illness, Ali led efforts to provide meals for the hungry and helped countless organizations such as the Make-A-Wish-Foundation and the Special Olympics.

Muhammad Ali's humanitarian efforts went beyond his charitable activities in the United States. In 1990 Muhammad Ali travelled to the Middle East to seek the release of American and British hostages that were being held as human shields in the first Gulf War. After his intervention, 15 hostages were freed. Thanks to his devotion to diplomatic causes and racial harmony, Ali was the recipient of many accolades, including being chosen as a "U.N. Messenger of Peace" in 1998 and receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 from President Bush.

Through his unyielding dedication to his sport and to struggling populations around the world, Muhammad Ali still serves an example of service and self-sacrifice for generations of Americans. The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting commemoration of his life and work, for which he is deservedly known as "the Greatest."

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our nation's most lasting and influential figures by signing on to this important legislation.

HONORING THE DAVID A. SOLARI  
POST 151 OF THE AMERICAN  
LEGION

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the David A. Solari Post 151 of the American Legion on its 100th anniversary.

On November 29, 1919, a meeting was held at City Hall in Pittsburg, California to discuss a new American Legion Veterans Post. On December 18, 1919, the Post received its charter and David Irwin became the first Post Commander with 47 members. The post was named for Private David A. Solari, 91st Division, 362 Infantry Regiment, Company G, who gave his life in service to his country in the Argonne Forest of France during World War I.

Throughout its history, Post 151 has provided services to countless veterans, growing to its largest membership of 567 during the Korean War. In service of our veterans, Post 151 conducts monthly meetings about resources, programs, and benefits for veterans. Members of the Post have provided Color Guards during parades in Contra Costa County and honored survivors of the Bataan Death March. Post 151 has provided Military Honors for as many as 40 veterans and their families in a single year. Its members also serve their community by visiting sick and wounded veterans in the hospital and providing transportation for veterans to VA hospitals and County Veterans Service Offices.

The David A. Solari Post 151 of the American Legion works tirelessly for our community of veterans and their families. We honor the service of our veterans and congratulate the David A. Solari Post 151 of the American Legion on its 100th anniversary.

**HONORING THE BLACK RIFLE  
COFFEE COMPANY**

**HON. ADAM KINZINGER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great work and inspiring mission of the Black Rifle Coffee Company, a veteran-owned coffee company committed to supporting those in uniform in each branch of the armed forces, law enforcement, and first responders.

The Black Rifle Coffee Company was founded in 2014 and was inspired by CEO and Founder Evan Hafer's time in the military where he recognized the impact something as simple as coffee can have on our nation's service members. With a goal of hiring 10,000 veterans, the Black Rifle Coffee Company has expanded greatly from Evan's basement to different locations across the United States and Canada. This growth was made possible by Evan and the rest of the owners, all of whom are veterans themselves: Tom Davin, Mat Best, Jarred Taylor, Richard Ryan, and Logan Stark.

As I have said before, I strongly believe the most important part of returning home from the military is renewing that mission and sense of purpose for our veterans, as well as the community around them. It is inspiring to see the Black Rifle Coffee Company take the initiative to look out for their fellow military brothers and sisters—just as they were trained to do on the battlefield while protecting our freedoms.

I'm proud to recognize the Black Rifle Coffee Company in this Chamber and thank them for their commitment to helping those who have put everything on the line for our country. This team and community of veterans is the embodiment of true patriotism, and I look forward to watching the mission of the Black Rifle Coffee Company continue to grow and inspire others to do the same.

**NORM HURST RECEIVES THE  
PRESIDENTS' CHOICE AWARD**

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Norm Hurst, who received the Presidents' Choice Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation on February 22, 2020.

After serving in the United States Air Force, Norm Hurst went on to become a Deputy Sheriff for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Within the span of his 32-year career in law enforcement, Norm would ultimately be promoted to Deputy Chief. Long before he was a Deputy Chief, Norm's associa-

tion with Victor Valley College began when he received his Associate of Science degree in the Spring of 1974. Not long after receiving his Bachelor's in Criminal Justice, Norm was encouraged to begin teaching within Victor Valley College's Criminal Justice Department. His service to the College continued in 2011 when he joined the Victor Valley College Foundation Board of Directors. Today, Norm continues to be an advocate for student success, and works tirelessly to fundraise for the Foundation's scholarships and grants to VVC's departments.

Norm Hurst has dedicated decades of his life to serving the public. Throughout his career in the military, law enforcement, and education, he has embodied one of the Air Force's core values—Service Before Self. Congratulations, Norm.

**HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE 1980 WINTER  
OLYMPICS IN LAKE PLACID**

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic legacy of the Olympic Games in Lake Placid. This week marks the 40th Anniversary of the 1980 Winter Olympics, which featured some of the most iconic moments in Olympic history.

The first Olympics held in Lake Placid took place in February of 1932. The intervening half century saw the massive upheaval of World War II and the rise of the Soviet Union. The Olympics returned to Lake Placid in the winter of 1980 and brought the tensions of the Cold War with them. It was during those games that the amateur USA Hockey Team defeated the heavily favored Soviet Hockey Team on their way to a gold medal in what was dubbed the "Miracle on Ice." In addition, U.S. speed skater Eric Heiden's record-setting five gold medals helped cement the Thirteenth Olympic Winter Games as one for the ages.

Building this legacy has been an ongoing effort for over a century. Since long before the 1932 games, residents of Lake Placid have been working hard to make their community a destination for winter sports athletes and enthusiasts. Lake Placid and surrounding communities have sent at least one athlete to every Winter Olympics since the first one in 1924. In order to maintain that level of success, they have worked tirelessly to host other major international and national competitions that constantly foster new generations of world class athletes. It is for that reason that Lake Placid was chosen as the host city for the 2023 World University Games, where over 2,000 athletes from all over the world will come together to compete in 79 events.

To honor the 40th Anniversary of the 1980 games, throughout this week there will be dozens of events at all of the facilities celebrating athletes from the original winter games and athletes moving towards Olympic goals. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate the entire Lake Placid community on this important milestone. I look forward to working with local leaders to ensure the continued success of Lake Placid and its athletes.

**STRAWBERRY CREST HIGH  
SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HON. ROSS SPANO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the girls soccer team of Strawberry Crest High School for winning the Class 6A District 11 title.

The team exhibited strength and passion all year long. Then their many hours of practice and commitment to one another gave them an added edge on their run to the district title.

In the semifinals, the team showcased their extraordinary talents by shutting out Tampa Tech, 3–0.

In the championship game against a very talented Plant City team, Strawberry Crest was resilient in their effort and pitched a fierce comeback to ultimately win the game in double overtime.

I congratulate Coach Sean Woodhouse and his staff on this title. The time and effort you invest into our youth to help them develop into strong leaders and community members does not go unnoticed.

I also congratulate the following team members for their fantastic season:

Sheny Anauo, Cristoval Arevalo, Kamila Arevalo Cortes, Stephanie Briseno, Abigail Caballero, Ezra Carpenter, Ariana Diaz Cortes, Avery Fearnow, Isamara Flores-Hernandez, Andrea Garcia.

Alexa Guzman, Madison Hall, Emily Hobbs, Khajiah Jeans, Lydia Linares, Amanda Ocegueda, Lizbeth Ortiz, Ashley Parow, Emily Parow, Mei Ramsey.

Olivia Reyes, Emily Rosales, Danielle Seunath, Hanna Trotto, Hali Vician.

I'm proud of them all.

**IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF SERGEANT  
JOSEPH EUGENE PROKOP**

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Joseph Eugene Prokop, a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, who bravely served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II and was tragically executed by the German Gestapo along with two of his fellow airmen.

Staff Sergeant Prokop, son of John and Anna Prokop, enlisted in the army in 1939 at the age of seventeen. In 1945 near the end of World War II, while on his fiftieth mission in the air corps, the B–17 bomber he was manning took anti-aircraft fire over Frankfurt, Germany and crashed in the city of Hanau. Until recently, it was believed that Prokop and the rest of the plane's crew died in the crash.

However, historians in Hanau recently discovered that Prokop and two of his fellow airmen—Technical Sergeant Charles Bernard Goldstein and Technical Sergeant Warren George Hammond—survived the attack but were subsequently captured by Hanau police and turned over to the Gestapo. Upon learning that one of the three men was Jewish, a Gestapo director ordered all three men to be executed.



Following this discovery, the German Consulate sought to contact Staff Sergeant Prokop's surviving family to inform them of the true cause of his death and extend an offer to honor him in his hometown as well as in Hanau.

On February 17, 2020—the seventy-fifth anniversary of the killings—Staff Sergeant Prokop was honored with a remembrance service organized by the General Theodore J. Wint Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 25 at his gravesite at the Scranton Cathedral Cemetery. His sister, Ann Spearmint, was in attendance. That same day, the city of Hanau, Germany memorialized Prokop and his fellow airmen by erecting a plaque at the site of their execution.

It is an honor to recognize Staff Sergeant Prokop, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation at a perilous time in our world's history. May his commitment to defending the United States and the democratic world order never be forgotten.

HONORING DR. GUSTAVO  
BALDERAS OF EUGENE, NA-  
TIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to announce my constituent, Dr. Gustavo Balderas, superintendent of Eugene School District 4J, was named Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. Dr. Balderas now makes three Oregon superintendents that have won the prestigious award, two of which hail from Oregon's Fourth Congressional District.

Education has long been a passion for Dr. Balderas. He is the proud son of migrant parents from Piedras Negras, Coahuila Mexico—who, like many migrants, sought a better life for their family in the United States. His parents saw getting an education as a path forward for their son and pushed him to follow this track.

Dr. Balderas is an Oregonian through and through—beginning his education in the Nyssa School District and Treasure Valley Community College in Eastern Oregon, earning a bachelor's degree from Western Oregon University and then a master's degree from Portland State University, and, finally, receiving his doctorate from the University of Oregon. He has spent nearly all his 30-year career in Oregon.

I am not surprised the American Association of School Administrators bestowed their distinguished award to Dr. Balderas. He is well-known and well-respected throughout the state for his leadership in education equity. Dr. Balderas is committed to mentoring and providing counsel and direction to the future leaders of our state's school districts.

He has made great strides in increasing the diversity of Eugene 4J's educator workforce. Under his leadership, 30 percent of all district administrators, including 39 percent of school principals, are people of color, more accurately reflecting the district's 31 percent enrollment among students of color.

He has also partnered with community organizations to combat youth and family homelessness in our district.

In accepting his award, Dr. Balderas said: "This is a 'we' award, not a 'me' award"—accepting the award on behalf of his community rather than himself. I am thrilled that Eugene 4J has such a dedicated, yet modest, leader who recognizes the important work educators contribute towards making our public schools exceptional. In fact, it was the educators in his life that inspired him to follow this path. They made him a better student and the role model he is today.

Dr. Balderas' talents were cultivated in Oregon's public schools, and today our community is reaping the rewards from his capacity, capability, and commitment. I am honored to have an educator of Dr. Balderas' caliber serve our community, and I thank him for the outstanding work he has done and will continue to do on behalf of the students of Eugene 4J and all of public education.

IN RECOGNITION OF RILEY  
DOLENCE FOR HER REMARK-  
ABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN CREW

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Riley Dolence for her accomplishments in crew. As a four-time world record holder, Riley's impressive achievements are worthy of commendation.

Riley Dolence is a student at Trenton High School in Michigan. Beyond academics, Riley is an accomplished athlete who has recently earned a host of awards and accolades for her involvement in crew. Since last November, Riley has set four world records in her age group including the records for most meters on the erg in sixty minutes, most meters on the erg in four minutes, fastest time to complete a half marathon, and fastest time to complete a full marathon. Despite her overwhelming success, Riley hopes to earn even more world records in the coming months.

Riley Dolence's success in crew is a testament to her unrelenting hard work and dedication to the sport. As a genuine and enthusiastic team-player, Riley is regarded by her teammates and coaches as a humble and passionate leader who motivates others to do their best. Even as a junior, Riley already understands the importance of commitment and discipline. She will carry these values throughout all her future endeavors, and we are confident she will continue to achieve greatness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Riley Dolence for her remarkable achievements in crew. It is clear Riley's future is bright, and we all wish her continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND GEORGE  
WALKER SMITH

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with admiration and respect to honor and remember the tremendous legacy of Reverend

(Rev.) George Walker Smith, who passed away in San Diego on February 15, 2020 at the age of 91.

Rev. Smith was a champion for racial equality and one of the most impactful educators and civic leaders in San Diego's history.

Rev. Smith was born on a plantation in Haynesville, Alabama in 1928. As the son of sharecroppers, he faced adversity early on in his life, as the local school he attended was segregated, substandard, and only offered schooling through the ninth grade. After noticing Smith's intellectual capacity, the plantation owner decided to send Smith to a nearby church-run school. Capitalizing on his educational momentum, Smith attended Knoxville College in Tennessee and later matriculated on to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary School.

After completing Seminary School, Rev. Smith moved to San Diego with his wife, Elizabeth Irene, in 1956. Once in San Diego, Smith founded a Presbyterian church in Golden Hill. Smith's congregation, Christ United Presbyterian Church, later moved to 30th and Fir Street in South Park, which he led for decades.

While in San Diego, Rev. Smith did not limit his talents to the pulpit. In 1963, Smith became San Diego's first elected black official, after winning a seat on the San Diego School Board. Smith went on to serve on the school board for 16 years and acted as the board's president a total of four times. Rev. Smith left an indelible impact on the school board in his leadership and successful efforts to recruit a diverse faculty, at a time when educators of color were few and far between.

In 1970, Rev. Smith founded the "Catfish Club," a weekly lunch meeting that would become a mainstay for discussions on civic issues, local politics, and social justice. The "Catfish Club" created a safe environment for multiple views and approaches, at a time when the country and city needed it the most.

In 1976, he was elected president of the National School Boards Association. He also served on the National Advisory Commission on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the White House Committee on Education and the Arts, the California School Boards Association, the San Diego Community College District, and the San Diego Crime Commission. He was the first president of the Citizens Advisory Review Board, which monitored police practices in the city in the mid-1980s.

As a Member and President of San Diego Unified School District, as well as President of the National School Board Association, Rev. Smith was the strongest voice for the achievement of all children. He was always probing the performance of students who would be first in their family to attend college. He believed strongly in accountability for all adults responsible for a path to opportunity for all young people. Although Rev. Smith retired from his church in 2000, he remained active and served as a mentor in the community.

Rev. Smith is survived by his daughter, son, four grandchildren, and a great grandson.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to personally witness and appreciate his drive to bring people together in order to create a better community. I always admired Rev. Smith's ability to keep education at the center of all he did; a wise and thoughtful approach.

I valued our relationship as I looked to him as a mentor on becoming a member of the



school board in 1983. It was always a personal pleasure to be in his company over the years. He always inspired me to go beyond expectations and do everything possible to make this world a better place. Engaging and demanding, Rev. Smith was a noble champion for justice.

While San Diego has lost a giant, I believe that his life's work will serve as a legacy and example for future generations to come. Madam Speaker, I ask that you please join me in remembering and commemorating the great life of Rev. George Walker Smith.

JOEL LEWIS RECEIVES THE  
ALUMNI HALL OF FAME AWARD

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Joel Lewis, who received the 2020 Alumni Hall of Fame Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation on February 22, 2020.

A dedicated educational advocate, Joel Lewis has made constant efforts to give back and mentor various students from Victor Valley College (VVC). As an educator at Apple Valley High School, Joel distinguishes himself with unrivaled dedication and energy for his job. His passion for teaching and coaching is constantly on display as he often goes above and beyond for under-served and developmentally challenged students. He has coached for seven seasons at Apple Valley High School (AVHS) and three seasons at VVC. As a coach to economically disadvantaged students, he has personally managed numerous booster events and donation drives for AVHS Basketball. He credits much of his success to his wife and children, his life-long friends, and his students. In 2010, Joel and his family adopted their son, after seeing his struggles and that he had nowhere else to go. Through mentorship, patience, and love, he became the valedictorian of Apple Valley High School and went on to study at Georgetown University.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate Joel Lewis on this award. Joel has led an incredible life filled with service and dedication to his students and community, and he is most deserving of this award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF RONALD EDWARD KNOTT

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life of Ronald Edward Knott, who passed away at the age of 73 after a lifetime of service to his fellow Americans. Through his extreme courage and selflessness, Ronald became an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

Ronald was born on September 24, 1946. Upon graduating from Walled Lake High School, Ronald joined the United States

Airforce, where he served two tours in Vietnam as a mechanic. Following his military service, Ron married his wife Dawn and began a career at General Motors. Ron retired from GM in 1987 and moved to Mio, where he and Dawn opened Knott's Dairy Barn. Throughout his professional career and into retirement, Ron's dedication to service remained stronger than ever—including service as Commander of the Wixom VFW Post 3952 and the Mio VFW Post 4126. Ron also served as Historian for Mio American Legion Post 348 and as Southeast Michigan District Commander. Ron passed away on February 5, 2020. He is missed dearly by his family and friends, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on for generations for come. Ronald's tireless devotion to the public good touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of Ronald Edward Knott. His legacy will forever live on in his family and through the countless lives he bettered through his service.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE NAMI  
WASHTENAW COUNTY'S THE AD-  
VOCATE GALA: TAKING OFF THE  
MASK

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize NAMI Washtenaw County and celebrate its 2020 Advocate Gala: Taking Off the Mask. NAMI's lasting commitment to supporting mental health in our community is worthy of commendation.

NAMI Washtenaw County is a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of those living with mental health conditions. Established by a group of concerned parents of children with mental health conditions, NAMI Washtenaw County was created in 1984 to address our community's mental health needs. Since its humble beginnings, NAMI Washtenaw County has grown significantly and continues to provide critical mental health educational programs, support groups, and advocacy work that address mental health concerns and work to correct the stigmas that are so often attached. Today, NAMI Washtenaw County ensures thousands of individuals, families, and educators connect with the support and information they need.

The Taking Off the Mask Gala exemplifies NAMI Washtenaw County's continued commitment to addressing mental condition concerns. Although mental conditions impact the lives of many, people remain afraid, unwilling, or embarrassed to talk about mental health in fear of the stigma that is attached. Thanks to NAMI Washtenaw County's dedication, tonight's gala will help lift these damaging stigmas and uncover the stories of people living with mental health conditions that are often hidden behind masks. The gala will explore everyday hopes and struggles that come with caring for someone living with a mental health condition and encourage attendees to create an open future without stigma, judgement, or embarrassment.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring NAMI Washtenaw County as it

hosts its Taking Off the Mask Gala. NAMI Washtenaw County continues to be critical resource to many, and its unrelenting commitment to improving the lives of those living with mental conditions makes a real and lasting difference in our community. We are grateful for NAMI Washtenaw County's meaningful impact and wish it continued success in the years ahead.

REFLECTIONS ON SENATE JUDG-  
MENT NOT TO CONVICT AND RE-  
MOVE THE IMPEACHED PRESI-  
DENT FOR ABUSE OF POWER  
AND OBSTRUCTION OF CON-  
GRESS

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the United States Senate determined not to convict and remove from office Donald John Trump, President of the United States, who was impeached by the House for high crimes and misdemeanors, a decision I firmly believe will be judged harshly by history for all time.

I voted for the two articles of impeachment contained in H. Res. 755, the resolution of the House of Representatives and I rise to discuss in detail the overwhelming evidence assembled by the Committee on the Judiciary and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which clearly warranted the conclusion that the President abused the powers placed in him in trust by the Constitution and the American people by endeavoring to coerce a foreign government to announce a phony corruption investigation of his perceived chief election rival so he could remain in office and continue his misconduct.

The President clearly abused his power by putting his personal interests above the national interest and jeopardizing the national security of the United States and, making it a perfect trifecta, enlisting the aid of a foreign power to sabotage the 2020 presidential election.

When this scheme was discovered and made public, the President launched an all-out campaign to impede the ability of Congress to learn all the facts and hold the persons responsible accountable by dishonoring lawful subpoenas, refusing to provide requested information, and directing his subordinates in the Executive Branch not to testify or cooperate with Congress.

The House impeachment managers proved these actions to the country and the world beyond dispute and clearly showed how the evidence warranted the President's conviction and removal by the Senate.

Madam Speaker, it is beneficial to the public and for history to review the material facts that have led to where we are.

In February 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, a stunning display of military aggression unseen since the end of World War II when the maps of post-war Europe were drawn.

Five months later, on July 17, 2014, the Russia-backed Donbass People's Militia (DPM), an organization consisting of pro-Russian separatists who have taken up arms against the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the

Government of Ukraine, shot down Malaysian Airlines Flight 17, killing all 298 persons on board, including 80 children and 15 crew members.

Presidential candidate Donald Trump would later dispute Russia's incursion into Ukraine in a nationally televised interview on July 31, 2016, when he said of Russian President Vladimir Putin:

He's not going into Ukraine, OK, just so you understand. He's not going to go into Ukraine, all right? You can mark it down. You can put it down. You can take it anywhere you want.

In contrast, the United States, the European Union, and the international community, standing in solidarity with Ukraine, strongly condemned Russia's act of aggression and expelled it from membership in the G-8, the organization of the nation's eight richest, industrialized countries.

In June 2016, at the Republican National Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio to nominate Donald Trump as its presidential candidate, the Platform Committee of the Republican Party made but a single change in the party's 2016 platform and that was to water down the platform to make the Republican Party more amenable and sympathetic to Russia and its interests in reestablishing dominance over Ukraine.

In November 2016, Donald Trump was narrowly elected the 45th President of the United States, surprisingly winning the Electoral College 306–224, despite losing the national popular vote by a record 2,833,220 votes to the Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former U.S. Secretary of State and U.S. Senator from New York.

On January 6, 2017, President-elect Donald John Trump was provided the unanimous assessment of the United States that concluded that Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. presidential election in which Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the U.S. democratic process, denigrate Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, the determined and resolute foe of Vladimir Putin, and facilitate the election of Vladimir Putin's preferred candidate, Donald John Trump.

Russia's interference in the election processes of democratic countries is not new but a continuation of the "Translator Project," an ongoing information warfare effort launched by Vladimir Putin in 2014 to use social media to manipulate public opinion and voters in western democracies.

Instead of supporting the unanimous assessment of the United States Intelligence Community, the President consistently attacked and sought to discredit and undermine the agencies and officials responsible for detecting and assessing Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election as well as those responsible for investigating and bringing to justice the conspirators who committed crimes against the United States.

Between March 23, 2018 and February 15, 2019, the Congress appropriated \$391 million in security assistance and foreign military financing support to Ukraine as follows: \$26.5 million FMF funding on March 23, 2018; \$250 million on September 28, 2018; and \$115 million on February 15, 2019.

As documented in the March 2019 Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference

In The 2016 Presidential Election submitted by Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III, the Trump presidential campaign benefited from Russia's "sweeping and systematic" interference in the 2016 election through a sophisticated social media campaign coordinated by Russian intelligence officers and by releasing documents stolen from Democratic National Committee computers and the Clinton campaign.

While the Special Counsel's report could not conclusively find evidence of a criminal conspiracy between entities or persons aligned with Russia and the Trump campaign, the report noted that the Special Counsel identified ten instances of unlawful conduct by the President that could constitute obstruction of justice but as an employee of the Justice Department the Special Counsel was bound to abide by the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel 1974 Memorandum which prohibits charging a President with a crime while he is in office.

On April 21, 2019, presidential candidate Volodymyr Zelensky was elected President of Ukraine, winning nearly 70 percent of the vote in the runoff election.

On April 25, 2019, Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., a distinguished former U.S. Senator and Vice-President of the United States under President Barack Obama, announced his candidacy for President of the United States.

On May 6, 2019, the United States Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Louise Yovanovitch, was removed from her duty station and recalled to the United States, culminating a months-long smear campaign conceived and coordinated by Rudolph Giuliani, the former mayor of the City of New York, acting in his capacity as the current President's personal attorney.

On May 9, 2019, the New York Times reported that Rudy Giuliani was planning to travel to Ukraine to prevail upon the new president of that country to launch an investigation into alleged corruption by former Vice-President Biden, his son Hunter Biden, and to ignore the widely debunked and discredited conspiracy theory that it was Ukraine, not Russia, that interfered in the 2016 presidential election in "sweeping and systematic fashion."

Four days later, on May 13, 2019, U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr announced that the U.S. Department of Justice was undertaking an investigation into the origins of interference in the 2016 election.

Madam Speaker, it should be noted that the Trump Administration decision to shift responsibility for 2016 election interference from Russia to Ukraine is contrary to the assessment rendered unanimously by the U.S. Intelligence Community and furthers the 'active measures' conspiracy theory hatched in Moscow by Russian President Vladimir Putin and the oligarchic regime governing the Russia Federation.

In fact, a story published December 19, 2019 in the Washington Post, reports that senior advisors to the President believe he was influenced to perpetuate this crackpot conspiracy theory by Vladimir Putin.

On May 20, 2019, Volodymyr Zelensky was inaugurated as only the sixth democratically elected President of Ukraine but it was noteworthy that the American delegation attending the inauguration was not headed by Vice-President MIKE PENCE as originally scheduled but by U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry, who replaced the Vice-President at the President's

direction and included lower-level functionaries Kurt Volker, Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations; Gordon Sondland, Ambassador to the European Union and a large donor to the Trump Inauguration Committee; and Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, Director of European Affairs at the National Security Council.

Two weeks later, in a nationally televised interview broadcast June 13, 2019 on ABC News, the President stated that he would accept damaging information against an electoral rival from a foreign government, a position disowned in a public statement issued later that day by the Chair of the U.S. Federal Elections Commission, which reemphasized to all candidates and voters that accepting political help from a foreign government would be illegal and a violation of federal election law.

On July 24, 2019, in testimony before the Committee on the Judiciary, on which I sit as the third senior member of the majority, Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III affirmed the findings and conclusions in his voluminous report, including that the "Russian government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion."

The very next day, on July 25, 2019, the President spoke with President Zelensky by telephone in a much-anticipated telephone conversation.

In that call, President Zelensky advised the President that Ukraine was ready to purchase needed Javelin missiles from the United States to defend itself from ongoing armed aggression by Russia.

In his immediate response to President Zelensky's request for military assistance, the President replied: "I would like for you to do us a favor, though" and announce the launch of a corruption investigation against his most feared and formidable electoral rival, former Vice-President Biden, his son Hunter Biden, and the alleged involvement of Ukraine in the 2016 election for President of the United States.

The 'favor' the President wished of the Ukraine President was to be performed not to further United States national security policy since the national security community was unanimous in its collective support of Ukraine in its struggle against Russian military encroachment but to benefit the President personally and politically in his capacity as a candidate for reelection to the office he currently occupies.

On August 12, 2019, a whistleblower complaint was filed with the Inspector General of the Intelligence community, Michael Atkinson, who after receiving the complaint followed applicable procedure and notified in writing the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Intelligence Committee that the whistleblower's complaint was 'deemed credible' and "related to one of the most important and significant of the [Director of National Intelligence]'s responsibilities to the American people."

On September 11, 2019, after many months, the White House's hold on needed military aid desperately needed by Ukraine was lifted as inexplicably and as swiftly as it was imposed.

Indeed, the only material change in circumstances that had occurred between the imposition and lifting of the hold was the fact that the President and his Administration was now aware that Congress and the public had learned that congressionally appropriated security assistance to an ally under attack by our

adversary was being withheld by the President for no apparent national security reason and that Congress had not been notified of the withholding by the Administration.

In September 2019, Members of the House of Representatives were alerted to a complaint filed by a whistleblower within the Intelligence Community.

The complaint alleged that on a July 25, 2019 call with the President of Ukraine, the President of the United States sought to withhold \$391 million in desperately needed foreign military aid to Ukraine unless and until it—either through procurement or manufacture—produced political dirt against former Vice-President Biden, who was perceived to pose the greatest threat to the current President's reelection in 2020.

On September 24, 2019, Speaker NANCY PELOSI announced the commencement of an impeachment inquiry.

A key witness was Ambassador William Taylor, one of West Point's most distinguished alumna, a Vietnam combat veteran, and the former Ambassador and then chargé d'affaires of the United States Embassy in Ukraine, who testified under oath that he told Gordon Sondland, our Ambassador to the European Union that it was "crazy" to withhold security assistance to Ukraine for a political campaign.

Ambassador Taylor also testified that one of his staff members in the Embassy in Ukraine advised him on July 26, 2019, the day after the President's telephone call with President Zelensky, that he clearly overheard a conversation that day between Ambassador Sondland and the President in which the latter asked Ambassador Sondland whether President Zelensky was "going to do the investigation."

That staffer, David Holmes, affirmed the correctness of Ambassador Taylor's account and went on to testify that in response to the President's question, Ambassador Sondland replied to the President that "[Zelensky] is going to do it" and that President Zelensky "will do anything you ask him to."

When Mr. Holmes asked Ambassador Sondland about the President's commitment to Ukraine, he testified that Ambassador Sondland replied that the President "does not give a [expletive] about Ukraine and that the President only cares about big stuff . . . that benefits the President, like the Biden investigation, that Mr. Giuliani was pushing."

Indispensable to carrying out the plan to announce the launch of a phony corruption investigation into former Vice-President Biden was the removal of the then United States Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, the longest serving female member of the diplomatic corps, and an American diplomat with a demonstrated expertise and distinguished record of fighting corruption and leading Ukraine away from its notorious past when it was a satellite of the Soviet Union.

So, led by Rudy Giuliani, the President's personal lawyer, a smear campaign was conducted against Ambassador Yovanovitch, accusing her falsely of impugning the President and allegedly abetting corruption in Ukraine.

This led directly to the Ambassador being recalled from her duty station and referenced in the July 25, 2019 telephone call where the President stated to President Zelensky that "[Ambassador Yovanovitch] from the United States, the woman, was bad news and the people she was dealing with in the Ukraine

were bad news" and that "she's going to go through some things."

David Hale, who as Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs was the third ranking official in the State Department, testified that he witnessed the smear campaign against Ambassador Yovanovitch and urged his departmental superiors to place a full-page advertisement in local Ukrainian press in support of Ambassador Yovanovitch, but this suggestion was refused.

In her appearance before the Intelligence Committee, Ambassador Yovanovitch testified that she was aghast that she was personally mentioned in a telephone call between the President and the President of Ukraine and stated that she felt threatened and intimidated when she heard the President remark that she was "going to go through some things."

Ambassador Yovanovitch relived this fear in real time when she learned the President was live tweeting disparaging things about her as she testified, implying, for example, that she was somehow in part responsible for the 1993 situation in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Three Administration officials with direct knowledge of the July 25, 2019 telephone call testified under oath before the Intelligence Committee: Jennifer Williams, a State Department foreign service officer to the Office of Vice-President MIKE PENCE; and Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, NSC Director of European Affairs, who was born in the Ukraine on the anniversary of D-Day, immigrated to the United States with his father and twin brother when he was three years old, was later commissioned an officer in the United States Army and deployed overseas to South Korea, Germany, and Iraq, where he was wounded in combat operations and awarded the Purple Heart.

Ms. Williams characterized the President's conduct on the telephone call as "unusual," inappropriate, and partisan in nature.

Lt. Col. Vindman was gravely concerned because the President of the United States was requesting a foreign country to investigate an American citizen, an act so contrary to national policy and interest that he immediately reported the matter to a senior counsel lawyer on the National Security Council.

The third person witnessing the call was Tim Morrison, who at the time of the July 25, 2019 telephone call was Senior Director for Europe and Russia on the National Security Council and a former Republican congressional professional staff member, who testified that the President's behavior on the telephone call gave him a "sinking feeling" because it could easily be characterized as pursuing partisan political interests.

Mr. Morrison testified that he contacted NSC counsel and sought to have the record of the telephone call hidden on a secure server to avoid discovery by official Washington.

The testimony of Gordon Sondland, appointed by the President as the Ambassador to the European Union and a million-dollar Trump donor, was chilling, especially his testimony that "everyone was in the loop."

Ambassador Sondland testified that he communicated directly with the President who directed him to work on the Ukraine matter with Rudy Giuliani, who had no official role with the U.S. government.

Ambassador Sondland stated under oath that Rudy Giuliani pressured the Ukraine government to investigate Burisma, a Ukrainian

gas company that had Hunter Biden, the former vice-president's son as one of its board members.

Further, Ambassador Sondland testified that the President conditioned a White House meeting with President Zelensky and the release of security assistance on his announcement of an investigation designed to blame any 2016 presidential election interference on Ukraine and thus undermine the unanimous assessment of the American Intelligence Community that Russia interfered in the 2016 election to benefit candidate Trump and harm candidate Clinton.

In addition, according to Ambassador Sondland, the highly sought and desired White House visit and security assistance was conditioned on the announcement by President Zelensky of an investigation into his perceived chief domestic political rival, former Vice-President Joseph R. Biden.

It takes no great leap in logic to divine that the President's intent and purpose here was to replicate his 2016 campaign formula from 2016: invite foreign meddling, point to an investigation, and exploit it by rumor and innuendo on social media.

Ambassador Sondland asked rhetorically, "Was there a quid pro quo?" and then said: "As I testified previously, with regard to the requested White House call and White House meeting, the answer is yes."

And according to Ambassador Sondland, "[e]veryone was in the loop," including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney; Mulvaney's senior adviser, Rob Blair; Secretary Pompeo's counselor, Ulrich Brechbuehl; Lisa Kenna, the State Department executive secretary; National Security Advisor John Bolton, Trump's national security adviser at the time; Bolton's Deputy National Security Advisor Fiona Hill; and NRC senior official Timothy Morrison, and even Vice President MIKE PENCE who Ambassador Sondland testified he told in September 2019 that the Ukraine aid appeared to be stalled because of the demand for investigations.

Finally, Dr. Fiona Hill, who preceded Tim Morrison in the Trump Administration as National Intelligence Officer for Russia and Eurasia testified that after speaking with and listening to Ambassador Sondland she came to understand that United States policy for Ukraine had diverged into one track pursuing standard United States policy objectives of promoting democracy and the rule of law, fighting corruption, and protecting Ukraine from Russia; and another track solely concerned with achieving the more narrow personal and political goal of the President to prevail upon the new Ukrainian president to commit publicly to announcing an investigation of supposed interference by Ukraine in the 2016 presidential election as well as a manufactured wrongdoing by former Vice-President Joseph Biden.

Dr. Hill testified that her direct supervisor, NSA Advisor John Bolton, characterized this second track as a "drug deal" which she stated to Ambassador Sondland that "I do think this is all going to blow up. And here we are."

Madam Speaker, I will further discuss what message this evidence sends to us loud and clear.

FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON SEN-  
ATE JUDGMENT NOT TO CON-  
VICT AND REMOVE THE IM-  
PEACHED PRESIDENT FOR  
ABUSE OF POWER AND OB-  
STRUCTION OF CONGRESS

## HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, the United States Senate determined not to convict and remove from office Donald John Trump, President of the United States, who was impeached by the House for high crimes and misdemeanors; a decision I firmly believe will be judged harshly by history for all time.

Madam Speaker it is important to understand the seriousness of a determination by the House to exercise the power of impeachment, which under Article I, Section 2, Clause 5 of the Constitution is vested solely in the House of Representatives.

The purpose of impeachment is not to punish the person but to protect the people by removing from office an individual whose misconduct and behavior is so dangerous that it imperils the liberty of the people, the security of the nation, or the vitality of the governmental system.

In short, impeachment is the passionate outcry (*crie de coeur*) of a people alarmed at a pattern of abuses and usurpations that evidence a desire to reduce them to accept absolute despotism or establish tyrannical rule.

The impeachment power is vested in the House of Representatives because it is the body designed by the Framers to be the physical, direct, and immediate representatives of the People, reflecting all of their passions and hopes and fears and concerns.

So, when 'The People' who established the Constitution are acting to preserve and protect their governmental system and their security, there is no higher or countervailing authority to which they must yield.

A refusal by any authority subordinate to 'The People,' including the President of the United States, to cooperate with, or honor a request for information from the House of Representatives when it is exercising its sole power of impeachment is simply another way of saying that the person in question is exalting his or her interests over the sovereign interests of the people, the ultimate repository of all political power in a democratic republic such as the United States.

The impeachment inquiry initiated pursuant to H. Res. 660 by the House of Representatives systematically and methodically revealed the manner in which the President misused the power and authority of his office to extort a beleaguered and besieged ally to conspire with him to sabotage the 2016 presidential election so that he could retain the office he holds and continue to abuse its powers.

Every material allegation set forth in the whistleblower's complaint has been verified, corroborated, or affirmed by a host of witnesses who overcame opposition and threats by the White House and courageously testified from which three unassailable conclusions can be drawn.

First, the President violated his oath of office by placing his personal and political inter-

est above the national interest by scheming to get Ukraine to announce a phony investigation against a potential election opponent.

Second, the President betrayed the national interest by withholding vital, congressionally appropriated security assistance to a beleaguered and besieged ally facing armed aggression from Russia, America's implacable foe.

Third, the essential purpose of the scheme concocted by the President was to enlist a foreign country to help him fix the 2020 presidential election in his favor, the very type of interference most feared by the Framers.

The evidence showed that the President of the United States abused the powers vested in him in the way the Framers most feared and worked hardest to protect against.

What this means in short is that the evidence showed that the President committed the trifecta of the most cardinal political sins that can be committed in a democratic republic.

If American elections are not free, fair, and uninfluenced by foreign actors, then the democracy is extinguished and citizens are reduced to subjects ruled by an authority dependent not on the consent of the governed, but on the assistance and beneficence of unaccountable foreign actors.

The testimony and evidence led to and supported a conclusion that the President abused his power to extort a foreign nation to conspire with him to sabotage an American election and undermine democracy so he could retain his office to abuse his powers.

Madam Speaker, Ukraine is not just another country but a bulwark for the West against Russia, its imperialism, its autocratic tendencies; Ukraine is an ally on the frontline of the United States' containment policy toward Russian expansion that has been in place since 1947.

Thus, withholding desperately needed security assistance to Ukraine not only harms that nation but endangers the security of more than 325 million Americans.

The conduct of the President adduced by the evidence illustrates the reason for the doomsday clause in Article I, section 2, clause 5 as the ultimate protector of a people and system of government in which America is to be ruled by American leaders selected by American voters without the assistance of non-Americans.

Madam Speaker, the hallmarks of a democratic system of government are: (1) an independent judiciary; (2) civilian control of the military; (3) free and independent political parties; (4) fealty to the rule of law; (5) freedom of speech and of assembly; and (6) a free and independent press.

But the lynchpin of a functioning and real democracy is free and fair elections.

As I stated earlier, if American elections are not free, fair, and uninfluenced by foreign actors, then the democracy is extinguished and citizens are reduced to subjects ruled by an authority dependent not on the consent of the governed, but on the assistance and beneficence of unaccountable foreign actors.

The Framers wanted to ensure that the President's allegiance would always be to the nation, which is why the text of the presidential oath is the only one specified in the Constitution and why the Emoluments Clause (Article 1, Section 9, clause 8) prohibits the President from accepting any title of nobility or

thing of value from any King, Prince, or foreign state without the consent of Congress.

The first President of the United States, George Washington, counseling in his famous 1796 Farewell Address to beware of foreign entanglements, said the government sometimes acts to make "the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition, and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty, of nations, has been the victim."

President Washington also pointed out the pernicious influence of foreign involvement in American elections:

And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation), facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country, without odium, sometimes even with popularity; gilding, with the appearances of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils. Such an attachment of a small or weak towards a great and powerful nation dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

Madam Speaker, if we are to have government of the people, by the people, for the people, then elections must be decided by Americans, and only Americans, without the influence of foreign leaders or nations.

The only legitimate way political authority is conveyed voluntarily and consensually from the governed to the governors is through free and fair elections uncorrupted by foreign involvement.

In seeking to entangle Ukraine directly in the 2020 presidential election, the actions proved by the House Impeachment Managers showed that the President acted to further his own personal political interests and disregarded his oath registered in Heaven to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Instead of advancing America's interests, Russia, America's implacable foe since 1945, has been emboldened and is benefitting from every action that weakens or jeopardizes Ukraine's ability to defend itself from aggression, beginning with the lukewarm embrace of this Administration of NATO, and especially Article 5 of the NATO Treaty, which deems an attack on any NATO member country as an attack on all, a commitment that has kept the peace in Europe since the end of World War II.

The Framers understood that abuse of power is the gravest offense that can be committed in a democratic republic.

Criminal offenses, the Framers understood, could be adjudicated in the judicial system, policy disagreements could be worked out in the political system, and concerns over maladministration could be addressed and decided or corrected in the electoral system.

But acts that by their nature injure the very system of government itself are different, or sui generis, and require a different and more immediate remedy, and that is the removal

from the office entrusted to the person or persons causing the injury.

This is done to protect the people and the republic, not to inflict punishment on the person.

The Framers were well aware that some of the most dangerous abuses of power were not violations of the criminal code but the actions of a tyrant who ruled under the divine right of kings and they pledged their lives, honor, and sacred fortunes never to countenance such abuses or usurpations in their new country.

Consider if you will a small sample of the legal acts of abuse and suffering inflicted on Americans in the time of the Framers by their rulers, Great Britain's King George III and the British Parliament, which they documented in the Declaration of Independence:

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with [Parliament] to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent; For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

The principle the Framers were asserting is that removal of the King and Parliament was justified not because they had committed criminal violations of the statute book, but because they had and were exercising their power in a manner that threatened the liberty and security of the people.

In short, the Framers were declaring to the world that their governors had so abused their

powers that it "revealed the character of a tyrant who was unfit to be the ruler of a free people."

And to ensure that did not happen again in the new nation, the Framers wisely included Article I, Section 2, Clause 5 vesting the sole power of impeachment in the House of Representatives and Article II, Section 4 subjecting the President and Vice President to removal from Office "on Impeachment for and Conviction of Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

The actions alleged in H. Res. 755, the impeachment resolution, and proved to a certainty by the House Managers bespeak a stunning disregard for the values that sustain our country and a contempt for the institutions that protect our liberties and national security.

As alarming is the fact there has been from the President no expression of regret, no remorse, no contrition, no apology, no atonement, no request for forgiveness, no admission of wrongdoing or even erroneous judgment, and no attempt at reconciliation.

Instead, the President continues to double-down on his previous actions, still claiming, despite all evidence to the contrary, that his telephone call with President Zelensky was "perfect" and inviting other countries, such as China, to become involved in our nation's 2020 presidential election.

This means the clear and present threat to our democracy that moved the House to act is a continuing one, which the Senate should have acted to remove.

Given the disappointing failure to convict and remove by the Senate, it is incumbent on each Member of this body, and all citizens of our great nation, to vigilantly be on guard to safeguard our democratic institutions, values, and principles against further attack.

That is what this moment in history demands of us and we dare not falter or fail in this moment of crisis so as was said in another perilous time, "sail on oh ship of state, sail on oh union great; humanity with all its fears, with all it hopes of future years, is hanging breathlessly on thy fate."

I extend my deepest thanks to thank Speaker PELOSI for the extraordinary leadership she has displayed on behalf of this House, the Congress, and the nation during the present crisis.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Judiciary Committee Chairman JERROLD NADLER and Intelligence Committee Chairman ADAM SCHIFF for the meticulous and thoroughly professional manner in which their committees discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by H. Res. 660, the impeachment inquiry resolution.

I thank all of the members of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Intelligence for the tremendous contributions they made in compiling such a powerful and overwhelming evidentiary record for impeachment.

I especially wish to recognize the extraordinary advocacy of the House Impeachment Managers in presenting such a persuasive and compelling case for impeachment to the Senate sitting as a Court of Impeachment.

Of course, an enterprise of this magnitude could not be carried out successfully without the assistance, support, and commitment of extremely talented professional staff members of the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees and I thank them for the invaluable service they rendered to our nation.

Finally, I wish to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to members of my personal staff, Gregory Berry, Chief Counsel; Robin Chand, Senior Counsel; and Glenn Rushing, Chief of Staff, for their expertise and tireless efforts in researching and analyzing the unprecedented factual background, legal issues, and constitutional precedents involved in these proceedings.

Madam Speaker, it has been said that what we do in life echoes in history, and Scripture tells us in Psalms 30:5 that "weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning."

I am confident that if we hold fast and honor the values and principles that we know to be right and true and good, then constitutional government will be preserved and passed on to future generations just as it was to us.

So, it is with love and reverence for this country and its people, that I stood with the Constitution and supported the resolution impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors and it is why I disagree with the conclusion of the Senate not to convict and remove the President from office.